

AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OR ACQUISITION  
OF ADDITIONAL NAVAL AIRCRAFT, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

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MAY 7, 1942.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. WALSH, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the  
following

## REPORT

[To accompany S. 2496]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2496) to authorize the construction or acquisition of additional naval aircraft, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to authorize the acquisition or construction of additional nonrigid lighter-than-air craft.

The act approved June 15, 1940 (Public Law No. 635, 76th Cong.), authorized the acquisition or construction and the maintenance of the number of useful naval airplanes at a total of not more than 10,000 and the number of useful nonrigid lighter-than-air craft at a total of not more than 48.

Section 8 of Public Law No. 757 (76th Cong.), approved July 19, 1940, reads as follows:

The President of the United States is hereby authorized to acquire or construct naval airplanes, and spare parts and equipment, as may be necessary to provide and maintain the number of useful naval airplanes at a total of fifteen thousand; *Provided*, That if, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Navy, the total number of airplanes authorized herein is not sufficient to meet the needs of the national defense, he may, with the approval of the President, make such plans for procurement as the situation may demand.

The present bill increases the number of useful nonrigid lighter-than-air craft from 48 to 72. It also provides the same flexibility for the procurement of nonrigid lighter-than-air craft as is provided for airplanes by section 8 of the act of July 19, 1940, quoted above, as the bill authorizes the Secretary of the Navy, with the approval of the President, to make plans for the procurement of such additional nonrigid lighter-than-air craft, as may be necessary to meet the needs of national defense.

## 2 AUTHORIZE CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL NAVAL AIRCRAFT

The Navy Department considers it essential at this time to procure 24 additional aircraft of this type in order to improve the security of coastal shipping and aid in current plans for intensification of anti-submarine warfare.

The bill was introduced at the request of the Navy Department and has been cleared by the Bureau of the Budget.

